

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1906
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
DECLINING OF SUGARCANE CULTIVATION
Prasad Shri Hari Kewal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a gradual decline in the total land under sugarcane cultivation ;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) the steps the Government proposes to take to increase the land under sugarcane cultivation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): Area under sugarcane reached an all time record level of 4.41 million hectares in 2001-02 and then declined over subsequent years. The area under sugarcane declined to 4.36 million hectare and 4.00 million hectare in 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(b) to (e): The Government has no plan to increase area under sugarcane cultivation. An Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) was constituted in 2003 in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution to address the problems faced by sugar industry. The IMG recommended crop diversification in line with the soil conditions and irrigation facilities and elimination of mismatch between sugarcane and sugar prices, as also between domestic and international sugar prices, taking into account the interests of the sugarcane growers and consumers. The Government advised the sugarcane growing states accordingly.